

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

German 301: Advanced Comprehension and Conversation
Fall 2009

- **Instructor:** Dr. Josef K. Glowa
- **Office Hours:** MWTH 1-2 pm, T: 2-3 pm, or by appointment
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Course Description

This course is designed to develop oral proficiency at the advanced level as defined by ACTFL. We will engage in role-play and problem-solving activities, perform short skits, sing songs, and discuss films and contemporary issues through the use of various texts and media in order to practice conversational strategies in the immediate environment of the classroom and the outside world.

Grammar, though not the focus of this course, will be reviewed and expanded throughout the semester.

Required Texts

- Larry D. Wells. *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*. 4th edition
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-618-33812-8. Note: this book is a learner's grammar and will be used both in German 301 and in German 302 (spring 2010).
- Additional texts (for a small fee), handouts and on-line resources will provide students with an additional opportunity to fine-tune their skills in a meaningful and communicative environment.
- I suggest strongly that you also purchase a good German-English, English-German dictionary--larger than pocket size!

Participation

Participation will be weighted according to the level of your enthusiasm and quality of contribution to class work and discussions. Homework and preparation for each class meeting is of utmost importance and will be noted in the determining of the participation grade. Attendance will also be noted in each class. Each unexcused absence beyond the second will be punished by lowering your participation grade, e.g. 3 missed classes mean that a B becomes a B-. *Eight unexcused absences is an automatic fail for the course.* No make-up exams will be given for unexcused absences. If you are absent from class for three consecutive weeks, you will be dropped from the class roll or given the grade F. If you must be absent, notify me ahead of time. Obtain the assignment from me or from a classmate, so that you can hand it in on time. Some form of documentation will be required for excused absences such as illness, family emergencies, and academic obligations, or any college-sponsored extra-curricular event such as any varsity sports team. Regardless of your reason for missing class, you will want to keep up with your work.

◆ **Extra Credit**

You can earn extra credit for attending the weekly *Kaffeeklatsch* or one of the German films presented by the UAF German Club!

◆ **Tests**

Tests are all pre-announced. The Final Exam is comprehensive, i.e. selected topics from the entire semester will be reviewed prior to final exam week. Tests missed without due reason are graded as failures (zero points).

Knowledge Outcomes:

Students will

- understand various authentic media.
- know strategies how to initiate and sustain conversation at the advanced level.
- know selected events and developments in the recent history of German-speaking countries.
- know about selected ethnic and socio-cultural features of German-speaking countries.
- be familiar with some culturally conditioned behavioral norms and customs as they affect daily life in the German-speaking world.

Performance Outcomes:

Students will

- speak with reasonably authentic inflection and idiomatic accuracy.
- apply appropriate German grammar rules when responding, orally and in writing, to the questions based on dialogues and reading.
- sustain appropriately complex conversations in the target language.
- comment appropriately on cultural information gained from various media or the instructor about the German way of life.

Disposition Outcomes:

Students will

- appreciate the important aspects of geography, history, political systems and socio-economic conditions in the target countries.
- appreciate the cultural diversity as evidenced in the difference between German and American values, conventions, and life styles.

Teaching Methods:

- Practice in reading texts and dialogues
- Build vocabulary using paraphrasing and other vocabulary exercises
- Role-plays of dialogues
- Use of videos
- Discussion of cultural information presented by various media and by your instructor
- Discussion of current events
- Practice in using the Internet as a means of gathering information on German-speaking countries

- Group discussions & partner work
- Oral reports/ projects by individuals or groups
- Singing of German songs

Useful Links

Online dictionaries

- ◆ <http://www.dict.cc/>
- ◆ <http://www.duden-suche.de/>
- ◆ <http://dict.leo.org>,
- ◆ <http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>,
- ◆ <http://wolfram.schneider.org/dict/>,
- ◆ <http://www.linguadict.de>.

Other important links:

Goethe Institut

- <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/ney/deindex.htm>

Media

- <http://dw-world.de/>
- <http://www.spiegel.de/>
- <http://www.zdf.de/>

Zwiebelfisch

- <http://www.spiegel.de/kultur/zwiebelfisch/0,1518,k-4050,00.html>

Rechtschreibreform

- <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/reform/>

Grammatik im WWW

- <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/grammis/orbis/tswww/index.html>

Deutsche Sprache — Fragen und Antworten

- <http://faql.de/>

Note: The use of electronic translation programs is not allowed and will constitute a violation of the Academic Honor Code (see UAF Honor Code below).

Assessment

Class Participation/ Preparedness/ Homework:	40 %
3 Oral Presentations	15 %
4 Tests	20 %
Oral Final or Video Group Project	15 %
Written Final	10 %

97-100%	A+
93-96%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67- 69%	D+
63-66%	D

60-62% D-
less than 60 F

◆ **Classroom Etiquette**

- No chewing gum, food, or beverages! You will need to be able to speak clearly and loudly, free of any interference.
- No pagers and cell phones!

◆ **Honor Code**

Exercise high ethical standards. High ethical standards are expected in this class. The standards in this class adhere to the UAF Honor Code:

1. *Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.*
2. *Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.*
3. *No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.*

Violations of the Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the assignment and, ordinarily, for the course in which the violation occurred. Moreover, violations of the Honor Code may result in suspension or expulsion

(p. 80, 2007-2008 UAF Catalog)

◆ **Accommodation**

If you have a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services or accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact me after class, see me in the my office, or call me during the first few weeks of the semester so we can talk about your particular situation. Early attention to specific accommodation needs provides enough time for any necessary planning or preparation.

Note: *I reserve the right to make appropriate changes to this syllabus whenever necessary.*

Viel Erfolg und auf gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!

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